

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW BOARD

The Guilford County Environmental Review Board is comprised of 15 volunteer members appointed by the County Commissioners for 3-year terms. Members are professionals and specialists in fields such as land and water resources, biology, chemistry, civil and environmental engineering, and education, as well as non-specialist, at-large members who are citizens who can look at issues from multiple perspectives. The members' qualifications consist of university professors with doctorate degrees in Zoology, Environmental Sciences, and Biology, a professional Geologist, Professional Engineers, an owner of a solid waste collection company, a human ecologist, environmental compliance specialists, a retired math and chemistry teacher, a land conservationist, and a commercial realtor.

The purpose of the Environmental Review Board is to act in the capacity of a quasi-judicial organization to help maintain or improve the environmental conditions of Guilford County by promoting development that uses resources wisely by helping make Guilford County an even better place to live and work in the present and the future. Additionally, they provide technical information and advice to the Board of County Commissioners on issues that affect the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

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**From: Environmental Review Board, Guilford County**

**Re: Suggestions to improve the draft of the Jordan Lake Rules**

On August 2, 2007, the Guilford County Environmental Review Board, 15 volunteer, professionally qualified environmental experts, was presented with a fact sheet of the Jordan Lake Rules by a representative from the Piedmont Triad Council of Government. In addition, background information was given. A resolution from the Chairman of the Guilford County BOCC was also reviewed.

After a discussion of various points, the Environmental Review Board agreed that revisions were needed in the Jordan Lake Rules and the rules should be modified, rather than approved as written. Most of the suggestions stem from the sustainability principle of equity, meaning:

- Balancing long-term needs with present realities, diversity and jurisdictional uniqueness of each.
- Deliberate and comprehensive planning according to community needs and opportunities.
- Asking who benefits, for what purpose and at what full-cost to the larger community.

**Improvements to the Jordan Lake Rules:**

- Provide equitable apportionments or considerations made for the jurisdictions involved (equitable does not mean equal, but fair, according to a particular rationale, such as the degree to which a jurisdiction contributes to the problem, benefits from the solution, etc.)
- Take into consideration/give credit for improvements/retrofits already made by a jurisdiction that lessen their impact on Jordan Lake.
- Offer incentives or concessions so work will continue in a positive comprehensive direction.
- Give the jurisdictions the ability to work out *how* they will achieve certain goals, so they can adopt options appropriate to their context and circumstances.

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Environmental Review Board